

Cohasset Mariner

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As The Mariner goes to press Tuesday night, all news and advertising copy must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. Classified advertising must be received by Monday at noon. Readers are invited to submit personal items, accounts of social functions, meetings, weddings and engagements. Photographs (black and white glossy) are also welcome.

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Editorial

'T' Help

Robert Foster is the new Mahatma of the MBTA.

That's nice.

With appointment of the Scituate resident, the South Shore received one of the few bones tossed its way by Beacon Hill.

But it's ironic, too.

Now the South Shore has the MBTA head man, but, of course, no service. Just a hefty share of the annually huge deficit.

MBTA stands for Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority.

That's nice.

That's ironic, too.

Most towns on Massachusetts Bay don't get anything from the MBTA except the aforementioned annual bill.

Program On Alcoholism Coming

As part of a comprehensive community education program, the South Shore Council on Alcoholism will sponsor a series of workshops for parents of elementary, junior high and high school students at the new study hall at Cohasset High School.

The program will be held on consecutive Mondays from 7:30 - 9 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The first series will be for parents with children in grades K - 6 and is scheduled as follows:

Feb. 12 — What to do About Anger.

Feb. 26 — How to Get Your Children to Listen

March 5 — What To Do When Resolving Conflict

March 12 — Being a Consultant to Your Child - Estab-

lishing Credibility.

The second series will be for parents of 7th and 8th graders and will be held March 26, April 2, April 9 and April 23.

The third series for parents of 9th and 10 graders is scheduled for April 30, May 7, May 14 and May 21.

The fourth series for parents of 11th and 12th graders will be June 14, June 11, June 18 and June 25.

The premise of this program is that parents have the ability to communicate with their children. Throughout the program, parents will deal with the following issues:

In talking to your children, do you often get upset?

Do you wonder how to deal with difficult situations?

Are you uncomfortable talking about touchy issues?

New Offerings At CCC

The Cohasset Community Center will offer a new course in authentic oriental rug making. It will be taught by Mary Kelley and run for five weeks on Tuesday mornings from 9-12. The first class begins Feb. 13 for 5 weeks. The cost is \$30.

Other new courses being offered include:

— A stencil tracing workshop, taught by Nancy Clapp in her home at 251 Beechwood St., on Tuesday, Feb. 5 from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$3.

— Tax workshop for 1978 Tax Returns, conducted by Jack Conroy at the Community Center, Thursday, Feb. 8 from 8 - 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$3.

The course will be conducted because of the new Tax Revenue Act of 1978.

All courses and workshops should be preregistered at the Community Center in person or by mail. The number is 383-0888. For more information, call Judy Volungis at the Center from 9 - 12 Monday, Thursday, or Friday.

By John Cutler

□ Difference between an assistant to the superintendent and a superintendent is \$\$\$\$\$. Functions are about the same.

□ There is so much good in bad people, said Lincoln Steffens, there must be some good in good people.

□ I've heard enough about the Cohasset hierarchy. What about the lowerarchy? And do you think Jerusalem Road will secede from the town?

□ If you know the difference

between take and bring, try to explain it after your third martini. And don't ever ask a guest if he would like his sixth martini. Just say, would you like another?

□ It is said you should never argue with women, the clergy or the press. Now, if Kathleen Graham, publisher of Newsweek and the Washington Post, was ever ordained. . .

□ Nietzsche says before you decide to marry a woman ask yourself if you will be able to

stand her conversation in 30 years.

□ Progress stems from people who take unpopular positions.

□ A snob was originally a cobbler's helper. And why do snobs never act snobbish in the presence of snobs?

□ It's okay to have a few prejudices if they have a steadying effect.

□ Isn't grand opera a diluted form of art?

Fire Dept. In State Of Flux

By Gilbert Tower

The Cohasset Fire Department situation has been changing for years. At the present time it is not static. At the next annual town meeting in April, the town will be called upon to decide whether to make a significant change.

As the writer sees it, there is going to be a great increase in the number of smoke and heat detectors in all houses and buildings. They will sound warnings before a fire even starts. They will enable firefighters and equipment to arrive almost instantly. A little fire just starting can be extinguished easily before it has gotten severe.

It is hoped that the chief will present to the town a plan for encouraging smoke and heat detectors in every house and building. The newspapers have reported that Chelsea, Mass. is taking a step in that direction with the help of government money. The thought occurs that the Cohasset Fire Department could encourage individual homeowners to install detectors and conduct a campaign to get them put in. Probably no fire department expenditure would do more good than money spent to encourage detectors. It is understood that at Scituate the Rotary Club is promoting smoke detectors.

The Cohasset Fire Department originated about 100 years ago as related in Bert Pratt's history. At first the wagon carrying hoses and ladders was pulled by hand. The next step was to use horses and eventually motors. "Old Independence" the hand-powered pump and water tank, I believe, was purchased about 1825, but was not very effective.

Cohasset's public water system was installed in 1885 and seemed to be a great improvement in fire protection, but the pressure was inadequate. A pumping engine was needed but was considered to be an extravagance. As a boy attending town meeting, the writer distinctly remembers how a Sandy Beach resident named Harry H. Gay stood up and said, "Why shouldn't they have it?" That did it! If the summer people were willing to pay increased taxes there was no objection.

For years the town had a volunteer fire department of

Commentary

"call men" who would hear the bells ringing at the three stations. There were a few regular men who drove the trucks. As they proceeded along the street they would pick up men to fight the fire. Then came television and the firemen complained that they could not hear the bells when listening to T.V. It was predicted that the present horns would be violently opposed. Strangely they are not objected to and now they sound rather comforting by saying that help is on its way in answer to a call.

The Beechwood and North Cohasset fire stations originated in the horse-drawn period. Residents of those parts of the town felt that they were being neglected. After a snowstorm they were cut off from the central station. The booklet of insurance rates was also a factor. On the few houses more than a mile from a fire station the fire insurance rates are slightly higher. Probably that does not make much difference because some people do not pay much for insurance. Fireproof shingles are now taking the place of wooden shingles.

The demolition of the Black Rock House greatly reduced the danger of fire. If the vacant wooden structure had burned on a windy day, a conflagration might have resulted. With that possibility eliminated Cohasset's need for more engines was reduced. Our town's fire protection problem is very simple when you stop to think about it. Almost all burnable buildings are private homes, generally well spaced. A fire at one house rarely endangers adjoining houses. A weakness has been that a fire has to gain headway to become discovered. The fire department usually arrives within ten minutes, but by that time a fire may have made a good start. If someone is living in the house, the alarm by the smoke detector will permit a call to the fire department before the start of a fire. The general installation of smoke and fire detectors should greatly reduce Cohasset's fire problem.

One item of fire department expense is hose, the 2½" cotton rubber-lined type. It

has to be tested every year and it requires care to prevent blow-outs. Salesmen make a good profit on fire hose. Every manufacturer claims his hose to be best, but for years there was only the salesman's word for it. Finally the underwriter's laboratory wrote a specification for fire hose so that now there is a standard of quality.

Salesmen hate that but buying by specification saves town money. In the writer's experience as fire chief, a salesman complained to a selectmen that the chief was buying cheap hose which makes trouble. As a matter of fact, some lengths of underwriter's specification hose lasted longest but the writer's effort to save town money was defeated.

One important factor in town fire protection is the system of underground water pipes. Many are now old and small so that they resist the flow of water needed for a fire. If Cohasset buys some pipes from the Hingham Water Company for the western Cohasset area, it will be a help. Snowstorms are not very bothersome now because adequate equipment keeps the streets open. Smooth paved streets permit getting quickly to every part of the town.

Some long private ways continue to be a problem for the Fire Department, but they may permit at least one pumping engine with a tank full of water to get near a remote house. A number of Cohasset buildings are now equipped with automatic sprinklers which are very effective and practically make the buildings immune in respect to fire. Our problem is nothing like that of a city where there are high buildings. Now it is not necessary for every town to have fire equipment in proportion to the maximum possible need. Safety to life is the first consideration! Safety to property and reduction of insurance rates is secondary.

But, it is comforting to know mutual aid from other towns can be counted upon. When a serious fire occurs it takes only a few minutes for the neighborhood to become full of equipment and firefighters. It is also comforting to all residents of the town that Cohasset has an excellent fire department who are alert and capable.